



**For Immediate Release**

March 13, 2020

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**Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Update about Coronavirus**

**COLUMBUS, OH** – Out of an abundance of caution, and in the best interest of our residents, guests and employees, the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is proceeding with caution and closing all facilities due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) effective at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 13, and will remain closed through at least April 3. In addition to our facilities closing, all programming, sporting events, classes and events will be canceled until further notice.

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department is in a unique position in that, first and foremost, we have a responsibility to preserve the health and safety of Columbus residents. Therefore, in alignment with the Ohio Department of Health's Order for mass gatherings, rentals and special events permitted by the City will fall under the guidelines of the Order until further notice. Community centers used by the Franklin County Board of Elections will be open on Tuesday, March 17, for polls during normal Election Day hours.

"We continue to be focused on the needs of our residents, and in particular, those impacted the most by these decisions," said Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. "We are exploring options with Columbus City Schools and other partners to see how we can leverage the Recreation and Parks Department's food program to feed children during this extended break from city schools."

The department's facilities and spaces are embedded in Columbus neighborhoods and serve as critical gathering places for all. The department will continue to evaluate what programming may be necessary to support and meet the community's needs during this public health emergency.

The current situation is changing by the hour, and each day brings a new and additional understanding of the virus. The department's policies, actions and advice will continue to evolve in real time to keep Columbus residents, workers and visitors safe and healthy.

If any changes are needed, we will respond quickly and communicate to all. For a full list of department related updates and closures, visit [columbus.gov/recreationandparks](https://columbus.gov/recreationandparks).

For additional information about COVID-19, visit [Columbus Public Health](#), [Ohio Department of Health](#), or [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Additionally, Ohio residents with specific questions related to COVID-19 can also call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

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